

First Baptist Church in Needham  
1st Sunday of Advent

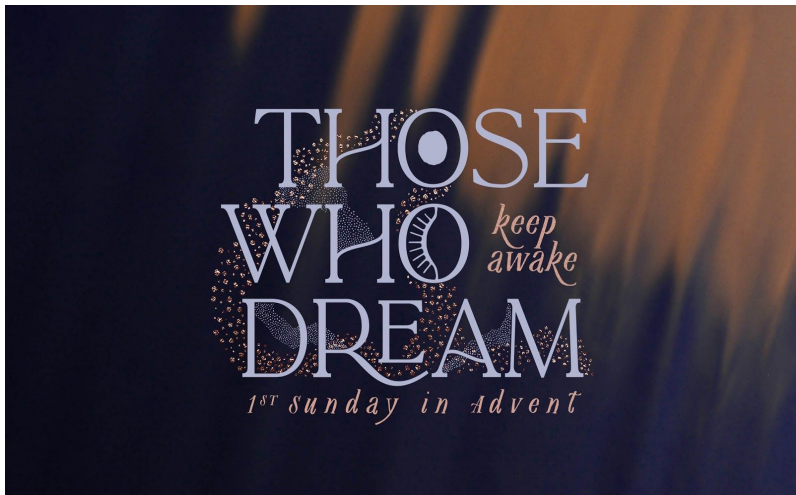
Edition 37



**Worship and Prayer Resource**  
**Sunday, November 29th**  
**2020**

*(or whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492  
[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)



## Advent Worship 10am via Zoom FBC Needham/ FBC Newton

You are encouraged to **join us for an Advent Worship collaboration with First Baptist Newton**. Links to these church services will be provided via email and text message. If you would like to receive updates and links, please email [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org). We will be incorporating the Advent Devotional resources from [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) “Those Who Dream”, in our Zoom worship and Worship at Home

Resources. Coloring pages from [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com), will also be provided in each week’s resource.

### Lighting the Candle of Life

You may wish to light a candle or use the photo above as a focus for this time.

**ALL: We light the Candle of Life - a candle that represents community, spirit, and the fullness of all of life - birth and death and all the transitions in between and beyond.**

### Advent Candle Lighting - Week 1 / Hope <sup>1</sup>

*Light a candle in your home or in your heart.*

*Adapt the following words for your use and circumstances.*

*Though they are written for two voices, they can be read as one, or shared in reading with many.*

A: I dream of sunflower fields.

B: I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.

A: I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

B: I dream of snow days.

A: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

B: I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

A: I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

B: I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

A: I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

B: I dream to keep awake, because if we don’t dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

A: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

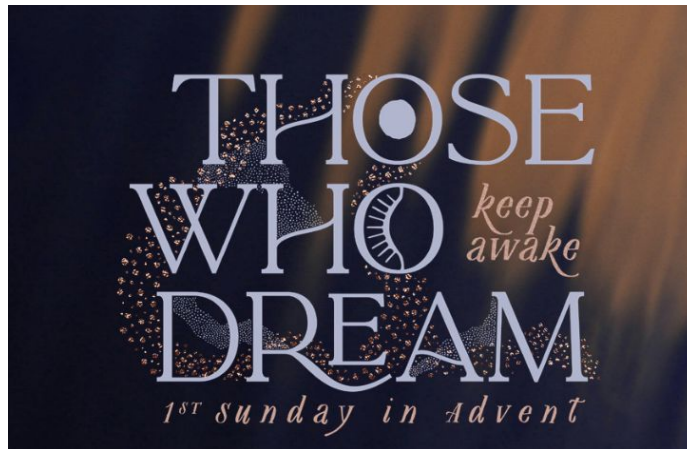
*Light candle.*

B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

A: May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream.

Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



The First Sunday in Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *keep awake* (hope)

Mark 13:24-37 | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Those who dream do not fall asleep to the realities of the world. God prompts us to pay attention to where God's dreams for change and new life are emerging. In Advent, we remember that God's ultimate dream is to be intimately connected to us—to come down and dwell among us. As we keep awake, we join Isaiah and the psalmist in pleading for restoration and for God to draw near.

## Song of Response

## Prepare Ye

arr. Stephen Swartz

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Prepare Ye", from Godspell, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0Uic7xfR9g>.

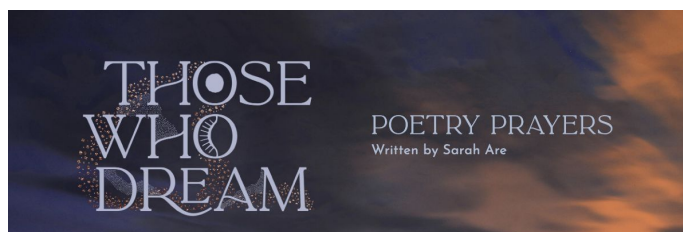
Prepare Ye, the way of the Lord (repeat many times)

## Meditative Word

*what does this  
word...*



*...spark for you?*



The First Week of Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *keep awake (hope)*

*Dream, Don't Sleep* / Mark 13:24-37 & 2 Peter 3:8-15

They say you will come like a "thief in the night,"  
The hour unclear, the day easily feared.

But I toss these words over the edge of my tongue,  
And they don't taste right.

A thief is one that I lock out.  
A thief is the one that I fear.

So I ask myself—  
Did I downgrade you to no more than a thief, Great Builder?  
Did you form me from the dust,  
Breathe life into my bones,  
And paint the horizon into the sky, all for me?

And was all of that fine,  
Until you asked me to love my neighbor as myself?  
Was all of that fine,  
Until you said, "Dream, don't sleep"?  
Was all of that fine,  
Until you asked me to wake up to the suffering in the streets?

Did I imprison you to the role of the thief  
To keep you from getting too close?

Forgive me, Great Builder.  
Tear down the door to my house.  
Crawl through the window.  
Slip through the attic fan.  
Dance in the security light.  
Scream through the letterbox until I hear you again.  
For this house is your house.  
You built it.  
You belong here.  
I am begging you,  
Break back in.

## Prayers of the People

*Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.*

### Sung Prayer

### *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*

BENZENHAFER

arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord.  
I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

### Prayerful Meditation

“...prayer and meditation can be thought of as the creation of a mental space in which the energies of dreaming and the concerns of waking life are invited to meet each other and to have a mutual, open-ended conversation.”<sup>2</sup>

*Enter into prayer trusting that God who  
walks beside you in your waking  
also accompanies you through your dreaming - keeping vigil, ever present.*

## We Hold in Prayer...

*Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. **If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.***

As a community of faith gathered in Spirit when we cannot be in person as we are accustomed, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...



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<sup>2</sup> Kelly Bulkeley, *Transforming Dreams: Learning Spiritual Lessons from the Dreams You Never Forget* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

We give thanks for our sister church, **First Baptist Church in Newton**, and for our **worship collaboration this Advent season**. For all the ways our churches have partnered over the past few years, through youth endeavors, Vacation Bible School, and now worship and choral Zoom offerings, we share in our gratitude ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Harry, we give thanks for **meaningful and caring connection with friends and family**, and for **unexpected correspondence** from folks we have not heard from in a while ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Jim, we hold **his sister, Cathy**, in our prayers as she navigates healing in her life ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We hold **John Crimmings** in our prayers this week. We pray that **God grant him peace and recovery** from illness, **guidance** to his medical team, and strength for JoAnn ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we give thanks that **his family in Colorado** was **able to visit their home**, escorted by fire and police, to close it up for the winter. We pray for **all those affected by the wildfires**, for **all the loss people are experiencing in the wake of the Grand Lake fires** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Jim, we pray for a **smooth transition within our country's leadership** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to hold **Ernie** in our hearts as he persists in treatment and healing through cancer ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that **Helen** is **doing well and has finished her treatments** for now. With her son, John, we pray **for the good health of Helen, Elaine, and their family** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, as the numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to rise, we pray **for our world**. We pray **for all those who have been ill**, and particularly **for those who have lost**



**loved ones to this virus.** We pray **for the development of vaccines and treatments** that will safely and effectively give hope to our world and end this pandemic ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly, we continue to hold **Gray and Eda Jackson** in our prayers. Eda remains in the hospital for a second week, and doctors are having difficulty getting her oxygen level up. Eda's daughter prays **for her strength and comfort** in this time. We hold **Gray**, Eda's son, in our hearts as well, who is struggling with both **concern for his mother and the guilt of infecting her** - God, **ease his conscience and allow him to know your abiding love** in this difficult situation ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We also remember Holly's friend, **Dale Tadlock**, whose **parents are battling COVID-19**. God, we pray for **Dale, for his peace and for the healing of his parents**. We pray for comfort for **Dale's dad** who is home quarantined while his wife, **Dale's mother**, remains **intubated and unstable** at the hospital ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, for all the **families that are struggling with the painful choice of staying apart this holiday season**, we pray **for the assurance that their actions are loving, are just, and are helpful in caring for the people we love**. It is a gracious and compassionate act to distance ourselves in the hope that we will be able to celebrate and be together next year. **Help our hearts until then. Afford us the patience and resolve to continue in vigilance to keep each other safe** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that **Bev and Trevor Parsons** are doing well. Along with them we continue to give **thanks for the calls of caring each week** ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Liz, we give thanks **for the accomplishment of yard work** that is finally done! We are grateful **for projects that come to fruition and the sense of satisfaction and accomplishment we feel when they are completed** ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Andrew, we give thanks for his **niece, Amy**, who had a birthday this past week - **18 years old!** We celebrate her life and the light she is in the world ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Barbara, we give thanks **for the beautiful worship resources and for the**

**pastors** that put them together, and the community that holds us in prayer ...  
*praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We also celebrate **Liz's aunt** who celebrated a recent birthday! For the gift she is to Liz and all who love her ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks for the life and leadership of **Pastor Daryn**, whose **40th birthday** was last Sunday ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We also celebrate **Liz Mercer's** birthday, coming up this week on December 3rd! Blessings to you, Liz! You are a treasure to our community ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

God, we ask your **mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others, and our world, more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege, when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for the **transformation** that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated**. Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen



## Offering

*During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> (Take Action) to complete your offering or **continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church** by writing your check to the church office and preparing it to mail to: **First Baptist Church in Needham, 858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492.** Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check. Let this act be a spiritual practice woven in within your worship.*

## Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



## Benediction

*(Speak these words of benediction knowing that you are part of a loving community of faith. If you lit a candle at the beginning, you may wish to blow it out now.)*

One: Our blessing to one another is that we are here for one another, that we are with one another, that we celebrate and remember one another along the journey.

**ALL: We extinguish the Candle of Life, but the Light continues to shine within us. As we pass the peace we carry the Light of the Candle of Life from this hour into this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.**

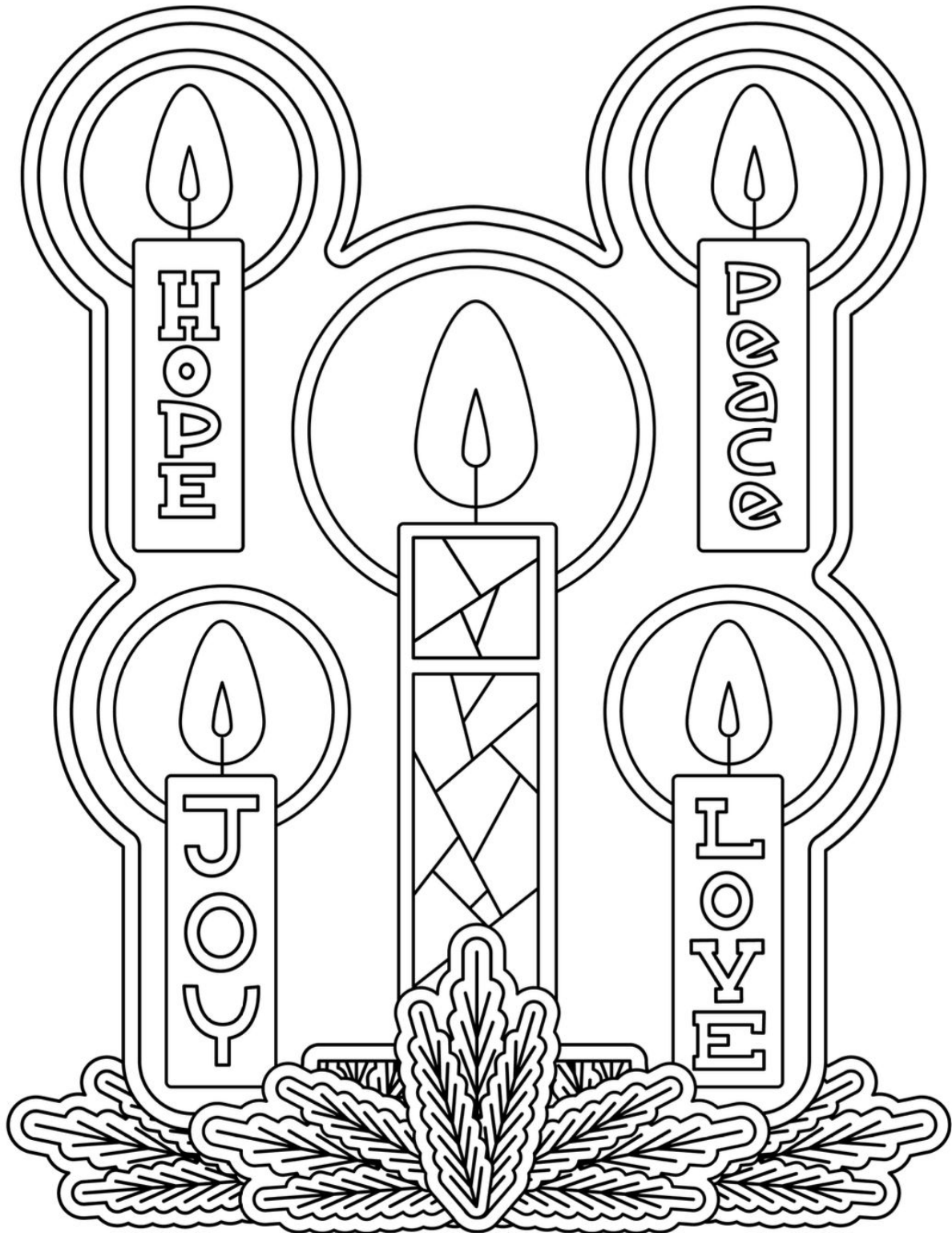
## Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another in peace as we prepare for the journey ahead.

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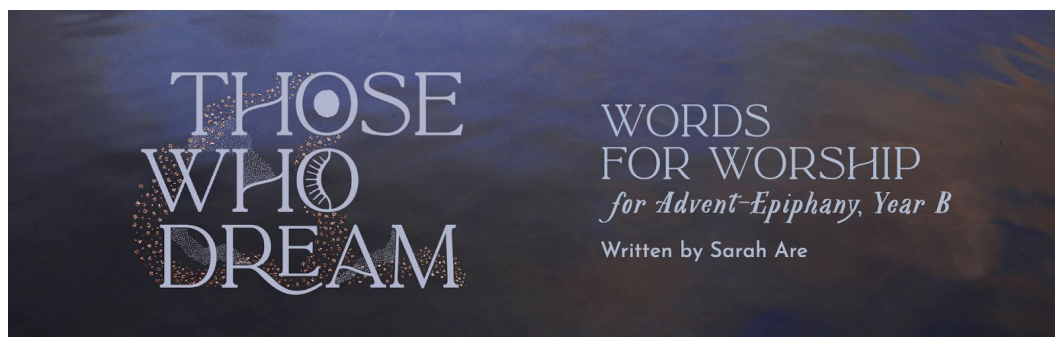
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# Announcements

## Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!

Our church office has re-opened for our Office Manager, Robin Bevilacqua. We are encouraging limited visits to the church building, and all who visit are required to mask, sign-in, and socially distance. If you need to speak with Robin, please call ahead if you can. Pastoral and other church staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.

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## Advent Worship 10am via Zoom

### FBC Needham/ FBC Newton

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## Worship Resource and Calls of Caring will continue!

**We are aware how much the Worship Resource and Calls of Caring mean to our community**, particularly to those of our community members unable to attend services in person or via Zoom. We will continue with the publication of these materials and with our calls each week, although we will make an effort not to call during the time of Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Blessings, all!

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**Pastor Daryn and sisters welcome you to The Welcome Table. Subscribe to receive this daily Advent devotional resource at [www.thewelcometable.co](http://www.thewelcometable.co), and learn more about this exciting new initiative.**



**Boston University** School of Theology  
Center for Practical Theology

**OUR MEETINGS FOR THIS YEAR HAVE ENDED. WE WILL PICK BACK UP ON ZOOM, JANUARY 10, 2021, with a congregational retreat to kick off year two of our Creative Callings process. The first community partner video of our 2021 process will be posted on that same day. Here's to next year! Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm in 2021 for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!**

Thank you to all who have shown up curious, engaged the videos and video partners in meaningful dialogue, curated questions, and held possibility for our church in this process of discernment and dreaming.

If you have questions about Creative Callings, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org).

# Looking for Advent: A Photographic Invitation

The four weeks of Advent have traditional themes of **Hope, Peace, Joy,** and **Love**. This year, you are invited to carry each week's theme with you wherever you may be – in your home, going for a walk, driving past holiday lights, or even the pretty wreath on your own front door.

**When you see something that represents the week's theme, take a photo of it and send it to Pastor Holly at [pastorholly@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastorholly@fbcneedham.org).**

We'll use the photos as visual inspirations of the season on our social media sites. Let this be a gentle practice of *Looking for Advent* each day, and see what you discover holds Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love all around you!

## **Photo Guidelines:**

1. Photos **MUST** be taken by you (not taken by someone else or published elsewhere)
2. Focus on decorations, lights, nativities, or nature – we can't post pictures of people without their written permission OR of copyrighted material (ex. a photo of a picture in a book).
3. These are **CANDID** Photos – they don't have to be “professional” but they do need to be clear & identifiable 😊
4. Holly will edit or crop any photos as needed. Don't worry if it's off-center.

## **What to Send:**

1. Your photo
2. 1-2 sentences why it represents the week's theme for you.
3. Location and/or any story behind it the photo

**Advent 1 – Hope – Sunday, November 29 – Friday, December 4**

**Advent 2 – Peace – Sunday, December 6 – Friday, December 11**

**Advent 3 – Joy – Sunday, December 13 – Friday, December 18**

**Advent 4 – Love – Sunday, December 20 – Wednesday, December 23**

# Coming in December!

## Physically Distanced Christmas Light Strolling

*...be sure to check out the church lights!*



As the holiday lights and decorations go up around their neighborhood, **Clif and Anthony** will be extending an invitation for folks to join them for their evening strolls with their new pup **PJ** to enjoy each other's company (safely distanced) and the beauty of the season's lights.

**Watch for more information coming soon!**

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### Newsletter

Check out our most recent issue of our Newsletter, *InSpire*. There you will find important information about worship, Creative Callings, stewardship and financial giving, as well as our upcoming capital campaign and building and organ restoration projects. There is a lot happening at FBC Needham this fall and I encourage you to actively participate in the life-giving ministry and discernment taking place in our community. To receive a copy, email [churchoffice@fbcneedham.org](mailto:churchoffice@fbcneedham.org).

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**Do You Need Washable Masks?** Be Kind Needham Masks for Seniors is a local organization making washable fabric masks available to local senior residents *for free*. Your health and safety in the weeks and months ahead is paramount, and having reusable, washable masks aids sanitation, is environmentally friendly, and is cost-effective. If you or a senior you know need masks, please contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly.

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**Needham Community Council** continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services. If you or someone you know are in need of reaching out to them or if you want to learn how you can best volunteer to help at this time, go to their website at: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.

*Please note: They are accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.*

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## **Security Adjustments**

**Changing Member Page Password:** email or call Pastor Daryn for the NEW password for our church membership page. Our Creative Callings password is the same as before. The membership directory has been taken down from the website for now. Please let Pastor Daryn know if you need to be in touch with someone in the community [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org).

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## **Text and Photo Attributions:**

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“Those Who Dream,” [www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org) text and images:

Title cards for “Those Who Dream” devotional resources; Candle Lighting, Poetry, Scripture Text, by Sarah Are, Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org); Art contributions courtesy of [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) include “Spark of Divinity”, paper lace by Hannah Garrity; “Tear Open the Heavens”, digital painting by Lauren Wright Pittman; “Restore Us”, digital drawing, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Use with permission.

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